

## Message Text

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47 41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EB-11 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 SY-10 NIC-01 /181 W

----- 069040

P R 261643Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1064

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5868

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: ARREST OF ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES

REF: LA PAZ 5858

1. EXPLANATION FOR ARRESTS GIVEN IN REFTEL, I.E., THE DISCOVERY OF A SUBVERSIVE PLOT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, WAS THE OFFICIAL ONE GIVEN OUT BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. PRESIDENT BANZER ECHOED THE THEME IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 25, BUT WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE PLOT WAS NOT MERELY THE PLAN OF ONE POLITICAL GROUP TO WREST POWER FROM ANOTHER, BUT A VAST CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE NATION ITSELF, WITH INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS, WHICH "CONTEMPLATED THE VIETNAMIZATION OF THE COUNTRY".

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HEARD ANOTHER VERSION OF REASONS BEHIND THE ARRESTS. THIS VERSION HAS WIDESPREAD CURRENCY AND IN OUR VIEW IS MORE CREDIBLE THAN THE PLOT THEORY MENTIONED ABOVE. IN BRIEF, THE GOB IS ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE A SERIES OF ECONOMIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE FISCAL SITUATION; AND  
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BECAUSE THESE MEASURES WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

ON THE COST OF LIVING WITHOUT A COMMENSURATE INCREASE IN WAGES, IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THE LABOR SECTOR WOULD RE-  
ACT NEGATIVELY. THEREFORE, TO HEAD OFF THE POSSIBILITY  
OF WIDESPREAD STRIKES AND OTHER LABOR AGITATION, THE GOB  
MOVED TO PICK UP LABOR LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHO  
COULD BE EXPECTED TO MOBILIZE KEY SECTORS OF THE LABOR FORCE.

3. PRESIDENT BANZER HAS ALSO HEARD THE LATTER VERSION AND  
DURING YESTERDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE TOOK PAINS TO STATE THAT  
IT WAS HIS NORM AND THAT OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK THE TRUTH  
AND TO ACT OPENLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY WITHOUT  
RECOURSE TO SUBTERFUGE OF ANY KIND. HE THEN WENT ON TO POINT  
OUT THAT IN HIS TWO YEARS IN OFFICE THERE HAVE BEEN THREE PLOTS  
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT; THE SELICH AFFAIR, THE VALVERDE EPISODE,  
AND NOW THIS ATTEMPT WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL TIES.

4. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE MOTIVES BEHIND THE WAVE OF ARRESTS,  
THE FPN HAS REACTED WITH AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF UNITY AND VIGOR TO  
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF SYMPATHY STRIKES AND TO KEEP AT LEAST  
STATE-OWNED BANKING INSTITUTIONS OPERATING (SEPTTEL).  
STEDMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** ARREST OF ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES  
**TAGS:** PINT, BL  
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